



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6478**

January Session, 2011

\* \_\_\_\_HB06478HED\_\_031811\_\_ \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING COURSE ENROLLMENT FEE WAIVERS FOR CERTAIN VETERANS AND MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD ENROLLED AT CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-143 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2011*):

3 (a) The Board of Governors of Higher Education, in concert with the  
4 state's institutions of higher education, shall study, develop and  
5 coordinate the implementation of new methods of awarding  
6 undergraduate degrees and college credits including, but not limited  
7 to: (1) External degrees awarded on the basis of acceptable  
8 performance in an educational field whether or not the necessary  
9 education was obtained by the candidate at an institution of higher  
10 education, and (2) examinations and methods other than classroom  
11 instruction for determining qualifications. On or before July 1, 1993,  
12 each constituent unit of the state system of higher education shall  
13 establish procedures to award college credits pursuant to this  
14 subsection and subsection (e) of this section.

15 (b) The Board of Governors of Higher Education shall promulgate  
16 regulations to authorize accredited institutions of higher education to  
17 award degrees by such new procedures.

18 (c) There shall continue to be a Board for State Academic Awards  
19 which shall be an independent constituent unit of the state system of  
20 higher education with authority to grant undergraduate and graduate  
21 credits and degrees on the basis of (1) examinations, (2) courses offered  
22 by Charter Oak State College, and (3) other forms of evaluation and  
23 validation of learning including transfer of credit. Said board is  
24 authorized to use the term "Charter Oak State College" on diplomas  
25 and other documents and utterances to affirm the status of the board  
26 as a degree-granting institution of higher education. It shall be the  
27 responsibility of the board to serve the interest of all Connecticut  
28 residents by providing open access to academic credentials which are  
29 based on a consensus of professional judgment. The purpose of such  
30 credentials shall be to identify and give recognition to higher learning  
31 acquired by individuals through independent study, work experience  
32 and programs of noncollegiate educational activity.

33 (d) The Board for State Academic Awards shall consist of nine  
34 persons, eight to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the  
35 state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; one of whom shall be an  
36 alumnus of Charter Oak State College; and one to be elected by the  
37 students enrolled in Charter Oak State College. On or before July 1,  
38 1983, the Governor shall appoint two members of the board for a term  
39 of two years from said date, two members for a term of four years  
40 from said date and one member for a term of six years from said date.  
41 On or before July 1, 1984, the Governor shall appoint one member for a  
42 term of three years from said date. On or before July 1, 1996, the  
43 Governor shall appoint two members, one for a term of five years from  
44 said date and one for a term of one year from said date. Thereafter the  
45 Governor shall appoint members of said board to succeed those  
46 appointees whose terms expire, such members to serve for terms of six  
47 years each from July first in the year of their appointment. On or  
48 before November 1, 1984, and biennially thereafter, the students  
49 enrolled with the board shall, in such manner as the board shall  
50 determine, elect one member of the board, who shall serve for a term  
51 of two years from November first in the year of his election. No

52 member of said board, appointed by the Governor, shall be an  
53 employee of an institution of postsecondary or higher education. No  
54 member who has served consecutively for two full terms or portions  
55 thereof may again be appointed until two years have passed. The  
56 Governor shall, pursuant to section 4-9a, appoint the chairperson of  
57 the board. The board shall, annually, elect from its members such other  
58 officers as it deems necessary. The Governor shall fill any vacancies in  
59 the membership of said board by appointment for the balance of the  
60 unexpired term. The members of said board shall receive no  
61 compensation for their services as such but shall be reimbursed for  
62 their necessary expenses in the course of their duties. The board shall  
63 meet at least once during each calendar quarter and at such other times  
64 as the chairperson deems necessary or upon the request of a majority  
65 of members in office. Any member who fails to attend three  
66 consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all  
67 meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have  
68 resigned from office.

69 (e) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop and  
70 implement programs to improve opportunities in higher education  
71 through alternative modes of service, including, but not limited to,  
72 guidance and information services, registration and validation  
73 services, examination and degree-granting services, technological  
74 delivery systems, and projects of research and development. With  
75 respect to its own operation the board may appoint and remove an  
76 executive director, who shall be the chief academic and administrative  
77 officer, and a professional academic staff. The board may determine  
78 the size of the academic staff and the duties, terms, and conditions of  
79 employment of said director and staff subject to personnel guidelines  
80 established by the Board of Governors of Higher Education in  
81 consultation with the Board for State Academic Awards. The board  
82 shall establish through appointments on an adjunct basis a faculty of  
83 consulting examiners to make recommendations as to requirements  
84 and standards of the board's programs and to make recommendations  
85 for the award of academic undergraduate and graduate credits and

86 degrees. Persons serving as members of the faculty of consulting  
87 examiners shall have appropriate professional qualifications as  
88 determined by the board and may hold professional appointments in  
89 active status at accredited institutions of postsecondary or higher  
90 learning. Within the limit of appropriations, the board shall fix the  
91 compensation of persons serving with adjunct appointment as  
92 members of the faculty of consulting examiners. The board shall confer  
93 such undergraduate and graduate certificates and degrees as are  
94 appropriate to programs of postsecondary and higher learning and in  
95 accordance with the recommendations of the board's faculty of  
96 consulting examiners on the basis of (A) examinations, (B) courses  
97 offered by Charter Oak State College, and (C) other forms of validation  
98 and evaluation of learning, including transfer of credit. The board shall  
99 assist public institutions of higher education in establishing and  
100 implementing procedures to award college credits pursuant to  
101 subsection (a) of this section.

102 (2) The Board for State Academic Awards shall develop a mission  
103 statement which shall include, but not be limited to, the following  
104 elements: (A) The educational needs of, and constituencies served by  
105 the board; (B) the degrees offered by the board; and (C) the role and  
106 scope of the programs offered by the board. The board shall submit the  
107 mission statement to the Board of Governors of Higher Education for  
108 review and approval in accordance with the provisions of section 10a-  
109 6.

110 (f) The Advisory Council for Higher Education established in  
111 accordance with subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6 shall  
112 be the advisory council for the board.

113 (g) The board shall fix fees for examinations and for such other  
114 purposes as the board deems necessary and may make refunds and  
115 other disposition of same as provided by law or regulation. The board  
116 may make contracts, leases or other agreements in connection with its  
117 responsibilities.

118 (h) The Board for State Academic Awards shall establish and  
119 administer a fund to be known as the Board for State Academic  
120 Awards Operating Fund, which shall be a separate account within the  
121 General Fund. The operating fund shall be used for the expenses of the  
122 board, including personnel expenses and equipment, and for the  
123 support of board activities pursuant to this section, including  
124 validation and evaluation of learning, guidance and public  
125 information services, projects of research and development for the  
126 improvement of learning materials and the technology of delivery  
127 systems, and for the purchase of such services, materials and  
128 equipment as are required for use in connection with said activities.  
129 Appropriations from general revenues of the state, all fees and  
130 proceeds of the board's activities, including grants and donations, not  
131 required by statute or regulation to be deposited to the credit of the  
132 General Fund, shall be credited to and become a part of the resources  
133 of said operating fund. Any balance of receipts above expenditures  
134 shall remain in said operating fund.

135 (i) The Board for State Academic Awards shall promote fund-  
136 raising to assist its programs pursuant to this section and shall report  
137 to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the joint standing  
138 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
139 relating to education by January 1, 1994, and biennially thereafter, on  
140 such fund-raising.

141 (j) (1) The Board for State Academic Awards shall waive the  
142 payment of course enrollment fees at Charter Oak State College, (A)  
143 subject to the provisions of subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection,  
144 for any veteran who (i) performed service in time of war, as defined in  
145 subsection (a) of section 27-103, except that for purposes of this  
146 subdivision, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in  
147 attendance at a military service academy, (ii) has been accepted for  
148 admission to Charter Oak State College, and (iii) is domiciled in this  
149 state at the time such veteran is accepted for admission to Charter Oak  
150 State College, and (B) for any active member of the Connecticut Army

151 or Air National Guard who (i) has been certified by the Adjutant  
152 General or the Adjutant General's designee as a member in good  
153 standing of the guard, and (ii) is enrolled or accepted for admission to  
154 Charter Oak State College on a full-time or part-time basis in a degree-  
155 granting program. If any person who receives a course enrollment fee  
156 waiver in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision also  
157 receives educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver  
158 shall be reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement.  
159 Veterans and members of the National Guard described in this  
160 subdivision shall be given the same status as students not receiving  
161 course enrollment fee waivers in registering for courses at Charter Oak  
162 State College. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as  
163 used in this subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for  
164 less than one year.

165 (2) If any veteran described in subdivision (1) of this subsection has  
166 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
167 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the Board for State  
168 Academic Awards shall waive the payment of course enrollment fees  
169 at Charter Oak State College for such veteran in accordance with  
170 subdivision (3) of this subsection. If any such veteran certifies to said  
171 board that such veteran's application for such federal educational  
172 assistance has been denied or withdrawn, said board shall waive the  
173 payment of course enrollment fees in accordance with subdivision (1)  
174 of this subsection.

175 (3) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran course enrollment  
176 fee benefit" means the portion of federal educational assistance under  
177 the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid  
178 to Charter Oak State College on behalf of a veteran described in  
179 subdivision (1) of this subsection that represents payment for course  
180 enrollment fees. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i) the  
181 total amount of federal educational assistance to be paid to Charter  
182 Oak State College on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an amount obtained  
183 by dividing (I) the actual course enrollment fees charged by Charter

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2011</i>	10a-143

In section 1(j)(1)(A), designators were inserted for clarity.

**HED**      *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*